

**Imperial College Union
Union Council / 19 March 2024
Bye-Law B Ratification**

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Seconder(s): Nathalie Podder (Student Trustee)
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Christian Cooper (Deputy President (Clubs & Societies))
Andreea Cojocea (Deputy President (Welfare))
Yi Yang (Deputy President (Education))

Decision(s): To approve

Union Notes

1. That at its meeting on 27 June 2023, Union Council carried a motion proposing [a number of amendments to the Union's Bye-Laws](#), subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees. The motion noted that the existing Clause 7 of Bye-Law B (Trustees) effectively prohibits a large segment of postgraduates and Business School students from becoming Student Trustees.
2. That at its meeting on 19 July 2023, the Board of Trustees ratified the majority of the proposed amendments to the Bye-Laws. However, the proposed wording to amend Clause 7 of Bye-Law B was not agreed by the meeting and the Interim Board Clerk was requested to draft an alternative version. This alternative wording was agreed by the Board Chair and 2022/23 Union President. The alternative wording was approved by the Board in September 2023.
3. That the alternate wording approved by Board in September 2023 was as follows (approved September 2023 changes shown in red below): -

Bye-Law B:

7. Each Student Trustee must be a Student at the time of their election ~~(and must continue to be a Student for the duration of their term as a Student Trustee).~~

*8. Student Trustees shall remain in office for a term of one year commencing in accordance with the Bye-Laws. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with the alteration of the academic year start or end unless their appointment is terminated in accordance with these Bye-Laws. **For the avoidance of doubt a Student Trustee may continue in their position for a period after they finish their study at Imperial College, but they shall remain subject to any procedures of the union.***

Delete 11.

4. Article D4 of the Constitution notes that the Trustees and a two-thirds majority of the Union Council shall have the power from time to time to jointly make, repeal or amend Bye-Laws. Thus, the alternative wording to clause 7 of Byelaw-B requires ratification by Union Council. Therefore, the Union President and Union Council Chair have been preparing to bring the alternate wording back to Council for ratification. However, in discussion with Union staff and student leaders, the authors of this motion are proposing that it would be clearer to *re-add the bracketed phrase into clause 7, except for replacing the word "duration" with "majority"* (as laid out in full in green below).
5. Said proposal was accepted to the Board of Trustees on 28 February 2024, and the Bye-Law was considered duly amended as such, subject to ratification by a two-thirds majority of Union Council as required by Article D4 of the Constitution.

Union Believes

1. The Union's governing documents should be up-to-date.
2. The principle of having student trustees on the Union's trustee board is clearly to ensure that said student trustees have recent student experience of Imperial and are in touch with contemporary Imperial student experience.
3. Replacing the word "duration" with "majority" (as laid out below) makes this clearer.

Union Resolves

1. To amend Bye-Law B as set out in full, for clarity, in Appendix One below.
2. To mandate the Union President to update Bye-Law B accordingly on the Union Website

Appendix One (proposed further changes post-September 2023 in **green** below): -

Bye-Law B:

7. Each Student Trustee must be a Student at the time of their election (and must continue to be a Student for the ~~duration~~ majority of their term as a Student Trustee).

8. Student Trustees shall remain in office for a term of one year commencing in accordance with the Bye-Laws. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with the alteration of the academic year start or end unless their appointment is terminated in accordance with these Bye-Laws. For the avoidance of doubt a Student Trustee may continue in their position for a period after they finish their study at Imperial College, but they shall remain subject to any procedures of the union.

Delete 11.